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CIA Declassifying Soviet Data As It Enters Hill Energy Debate

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The nation's spy agency, drawn into a congressional debate on energy because of its detailed knowledge about Russian oil wells, is declassifying some of the intelligence it gathered about the Soviet Union.

Adm. Stansfield Turner, CIA director, told a congressional hearing yesterday the agency's report draws on intelligence information on world reserves — especially in the Soviet Union — not available to other energy forecasters.

But CIA explanations are apparently not satisfying Republican leaders in Congress. They contend President Carter's energy program underestimates U.S. capacity to increase oil and gas production and could amount to an unwarranted \$70-billion-a-year tax on Americans.

Carter cited the CIA report in his appeal to Americans last week to conserve more energy and to bolster his overall energy program, which calls for new taxes on fuels and on inefficient fuel use.

PART OF THE CIA study was made public last week. Yesterday, Turner declassified a section dealing principally with the Soviet oil situation, and used it in his House testimony.

The newly declassified material was printed in booklet form that includes a colored map showing Soviet petroleum deposits, existing and planned pipelines for oil and natural gas and refineries.

It reports on the technology Russians use to pump oil, estimates reserves — though it notes formulating the estimate was hampered by "Soviet secrecy" — and places the number of active rigs in the Soviet Union at 1,600, about the same number as in this country.

Turner said the CIA report, with its claim that world energy consumption will surpass production by 1985, may be more pessimistic than other analyses because it doesn't attempt to make long-range predictions based on undiscovered reserves.

Testifying before a House Commerce energy subcommittee, Turner said he would not dispute a U.N. report that says the world probably has enough oil and gas to last at least 100 years, although much of it may be expensive to tap. He said only reserves that could be "brought on line" by 1935 were used in the CIA analysis.

TURNER SAID the CIA's prediction that the Soviet Union will change from an exporter to a substantial importer of oil by the early 1980s "is crucial to our analysis."

In his testimony Turner elaborated, noting that despite a five-year plan to increase output "Soviet oil production will soon peak, possibly as early as next year, and certainly not later than the early 1980s."

"The Soviets have a problem of production in that those fields that account for the bulk of Soviet production are experiencing severe water encroachment. As a result, increasingly large quantities of water must be lifted for each barrel of oil produced," the CIA chief testified.

He said Russia, which now exports about 1 million barrels of oil a day, along with Eastern Europe will be importing from 3.5 million to 4.5 million barrels a day by 1985. The People's Republic of China may also have to import oil by then, the CIA chief added.

Turner said these imports will place an even heavier burden on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to meet world demands. He said OPEC doesn't have the capacity or ability to meet them.

Turner also said the Carter administration did not ask for the CIA study, which he said took about a year and was given to the President about three weeks ago. "The President was surprised when I handed it to him. He didn't know I was doing it."

"WE HAVE NOT tried to adapt this study to assumptions on whether (Carter's) program would pass or so on," Turner added.

Rep. Clarence Brown, R-Ohio, said the CIA study is misleading because it "ignores the potential for finding new reserves."

Turner responded that the study is an effort to explain what will happen between now and 1985 with world energy consumption and demand and does not attempt to deal with "exhaustion of supplies."

But Brown argued: "We ought to know what's going to happen to supply as well as what's going to happen to demand."

At a news conference earlier yesterday, GOP National Committee Chairman Bill Brock called the CIA study more pessimistic than any other major energy study. "The President has taken the worst possible case and used it for a decision on national policy," Brock said.

Brock, House Republican Leader John Rhodes and Senate GOP Leader Howard Baker called Carter's proposal as a \$70-billion-a-year tax boost that would do little to increase U.S. energy production.